

# **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Briefing**

February 11, 2015

Hannah L. Byron  
Executive Director

# Medical Marijuana Commission

- *Natalie M. LaPrade* Medical Marijuana Commission oversees the implementation of the medical marijuana program.
- 15-members include:
  - health care practitioners
  - representatives of law enforcement
  - the legal community
  - agricultural representatives
  - state research institution scientist
  - patient representative
  - Office of the Comptroller representative
  - Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene designee
- Commission subcommittees on policy, finance, education, and research.

# Medical Marijuana Law Background

In 2014, HB 881 and SB 923 were signed into law, making Maryland the 22<sup>nd</sup> state with a medical marijuana program. Maryland joins 21 other states and the District of Columbia.

# Summary of Proposed Regulations

The Proposed Regulations set forth the process for application, requirements, renewals and fee structure for:

- Establishing Patient and Caregiver Registries
- Requirements for certification of licensed Maryland physicians
- Licensing requirements for medical marijuana grower operations
- Licensing requirements for medical marijuana dispensaries
- Establishing licensing fees to fund the operations
- Compliance – inspections of growers and dispensaries

## **Key Goals**

- Finalize COMAR regulations for medical marijuana
- Develop and implement patient and caregiver registry system
- Solicit applications from and approve certifying physicians
- Solicit applications from and award licenses to growers and dispensaries
- Establish compliance programs for growers and dispensaries
- Produce identification cards
- Make medical marijuana available to Maryland residents by Spring 2016



## **Current Activities**

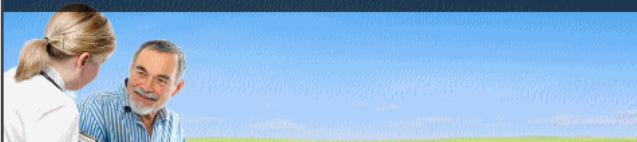
- Proposed Regulations
- FY 2016 Budget/Revenue Projections
- Database Development
- Independent Review Process and Evaluation
- MMC Website

# Natalie M. LaPrade MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMMISSION



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Natalie M. LaPrade  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMMISSION




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### Welcome to the Natalie M. LaPrade Maryland Medical Marijuana Commission

Senate Bill 828 and House Bill 881, signed into law on April 14, 2014, will significantly change the medical marijuana program being implemented by the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Marijuana Commission. The Commission is in the process of promulgating regulations to implement these changes. All information regarding the program will be placed on this website as it becomes available.

Here is a link to the new law: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Q014R8/bills/sosb0828e.pdf>

Get the latest information on conferences and seminars by selecting the Education link in the Menu. (Two conferences are listed for March, 2015)

### Announcements

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
Executive Director Hannah Byron will be updating the [Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on the Medical Marijuana program on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 2:00 in the 2 East Miller Building in Annapolis, Maryland.](#)

Proposed Regulations issued January 23, 2016 (Volume 42 - Issue 2 - Pages 214-244)  
<http://www.doh.state.md.us/MDRegister/4202.pdf>


(Printed page numbers 82 through 244 of Vol. 42, Issue 2, Jan. 23, 2015)

Note: On pp. 83 and 84 are statements regarding economic impact, etc. On p. 84 are directions for submitting comments. Comments can be submitted through Feb. 23, 2015.  
Persons who have questions or comments should direct them to Michele Phinney at DHHM as spelled out on p. 84.


**Executive Director Appointed (December 26, 2014)**  
The Maryland Medical Marijuana Commission today announced the appointment of Hannah Byron to serve as its first Executive Director.

[Read full announcement \(click\)](#)

### Next Commission Meeting




Lovell A. Frazier Jr.,  
GOVERNOR  
W.K. Rawlinson,  
LT. GOVERNOR  
Natalie M. LaPrade,  
COMMISSIONER



**Maryland Health Connection**

A new, one-stop health insurance marketplace where individuals and families can shop, compare and select the health plan that's right for you.



**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

"Our goal is to improve the health status of every Maryland resident and to ensure access to quality health care."

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4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215  
Contact us at: [dhhm.medicalmarijuanacommission@maryland.gov](mailto:dhhm.medicalmarijuanacommission@maryland.gov)

## **(Preliminary) February-March 2015**

### **Activities:**

- Define IT system needs for registries, ID cards, fee collection
- Complete job descriptions for MMC positions, submit to DBM for approval
- Deadline for comments for COMAR regulations February 23; respond to comments
- Develop & issue Request-For-Proposal for professional consulting services to assist MMC with independent evaluation of applications from Growers, Dispensaries



## **(Preliminary) March-May 2015**

### **Activities:**

- Complete final draft of applications for Physicians, Patients/Caregivers
- Complete final draft of applications for Growers, Dispensaries
- Advertise & interview applicants for MMC staff positions; hire staff

## **(Preliminary) June–August 2015** **Activities:**

- Train new staff
- Test IT system for Registries
- Award contract for professional consulting services to assist MMC with independent evaluation of applications from Growers, Dispensaries

## **(Preliminary) August-September 2015**

### **Activities:**

- Solicit Stage 1 applications from Growers, Dispensaries
- With the assistance of the professional consulting service, begin evaluation of Stage 1 applications from Growers, Dispensaries

## **(Preliminary) November-December 2015 Activities:**

- Announce results of Stage 1 application review for Growers, Dispensaries
- Solicit Stage 2 applications from Growers, Dispensaries
- Begin open enrollment of Certifying Physicians
- Begin to solicit & approve Patient/Caregiver applications (phase-in by last name)

## **(Preliminary) January-April 2016** **Activities:**

- Continue open enrollment of Certifying Physicians
- Continue to solicit & approve Patient/Caregiver applications (phase-in by last name)
- Approve Stage 2 applications; award licenses to Growers, Dispensaries
- Begin compliance/inspections of Growers, Dispensaries
- Make medical marijuana available to patients by April 2016

# Questions?

[Dhmmh.medicalmarijuanacommission@maryland.gov](mailto:Dhmmh.medicalmarijuanacommission@maryland.gov)

[MMC.maryland.gov](http://MMC.maryland.gov)

*Natalie M. LaPrade* Medical Marijuana Commission

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